

With the trust that the facts here presented may be of service to you in forming true conclusions upon the important matters claiming your consideration, this report is respectfully submitted. Awaiting your further commands, I am

Obediently yours,

Raleigh, N. C., December 28, 1918.

W. F. MARSHALL.

#### METHODS OF SUPPLYING TEXT-BOOKS TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In the United States there are three methods of supplying text-books to the public schools.

*Method 1.* The State prints the text-books and

(a) Sells them at cost; or,

(b) Furnishes them free.

There are only two States with printing plants where the elementary text-books are printed: Kansas and California. Kansas sells the books at cost and California furnishes them free.

Five States, California, Kansas, Maine, Nevada, and Oregon own State printing plants. Only two of these, as indicated above, print elementary text-books for the public schools.

*Method 2.* The State Board of Education or a Text-book Commission adopts certain books for use throughout the State. A contract is entered into with the publishers for the books adopted. This contract is fixed for a definite number of years.

Under this plan there are two methods of distributing text-books:

(a) The publishers have depositories in the State and the books are sold to the children at the price agreed upon in the contract with the State.

(b) The State purchases the books direct from the publishers and furnishes the books free of charge to the children.

*Method 3.* The selection of text-books is a matter of the local school unit, county or township. The State has nothing to say about what book shall be used in county or township.

Under this plan there are two methods in use:

(a) The local board selects the text-books to be used and the children purchase the books in the open market. The local board may enter into an agreement with the publishers as to the price to be paid in county or township.

(b) The local board selects the books, purchases the same from the publishers and distributes them free to the children.

Two States, California and Kansas, use Method 1, and forty-six States use either Method 2 or Method 3. No doubt there are slight variations from the outline given above under Method 2 and Method 3 in different States, but the outline gives a fairly accurate idea of the methods now in use.

It is reasonable to suppose that a State, entering into a contract with a publisher to supply either the children of the entire State or the State direct with a large number of books for a number of years, could get these books cheaper than a local board could, and this is true; for when a book is put on a State adopted list it sells at a lower figure than before State adoption. So we conclude that the cost of Method 2 is less than the cost of Method 3.

There is absolutely no way from available data to make an accurate comparison of the cost of Method 1 and Method 3. California prices are somewhat lower, but the overhead expenses are not taken into account, i.e., the